

R E P O R T

of the

Medical Officer of Health of the Borough of Shaftesbury.

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of Shaftesbury.

Gentlemen,

I beg to present to you my report for the year ending 31st. December 1925.

I propose to deal with the various items in the order set out in the Appendix of the Circular issued by the Ministry of Health

Natural and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area

In 1921 the Borough of Shaftesbury was extended, the former area being 156 acres, with a population (census 1921) of 2399.

The number of Inhabitated Houses being 462.

The present area is 514 acres, with a population estimated 1925 of 2364. The number of Inhabitated Houses being 510 and the number of families or separate occupiers 520.

Physical features and general character of the area are that it stands clear on a rocky eminence situated 700 feet above sea level being approached gradually from the East, the approaches being steep in other directions.

The Rateable Value is £15,597.

The sum represented by a penny rate is £50.

The chief occupation of the inhabitants being Agricultural.

The amount of Poor Law relief is ; attached to the Union is the Poor Law Hospital.

There have been no special causes of sickness during the last twelve months in the Borough, beyond the usual ailments amongst School Children.

General Provision of Health Services in the Area.

Hospitals.

There is a Cottage Hospital containing 10 beds for the treatment of ordinary cases of a Medical and Surgical nature, but in 1925 this Hospital was recognised by the Dorset County Council for the admission and treatment of cases of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

There is a Tuberculosis Dispensary at Sturminster Newton, and two Tuberculosis Sanatoria - one at Parkstone and one at Warminster available for patients from the area.

Infectious Diseases.

Arrangements have been made for the transference of infectious diseases occurring in the Borough to the Isolation Hospital at Blandford.

Any Institutional Provision for unmarried mothers etc.

Nil

Ambulance facilities

Nil

Clinics and Treatment Centres

Nil

Midwives.

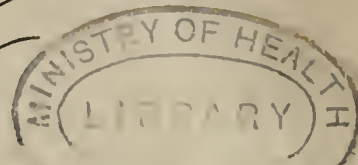
There are two Midwives practising in the area.

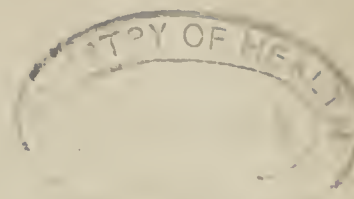
Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

Water

The water supply is obtained from a well 123 feet deep, and is pumped to a Reservoir in Little Down, there being little danger of contamination. The water is of excellent quality and the supply constant, with the exception that it is occasionally deemed advisable to cut it off for a short time daily during the dry season. About 96% of the houses are supplied direct from the main or by means of standpipes. Extention of water main to Pine Ridge Cottages where there is a polluted well is under consideration.

There are no rivers or streams in the neighbourhood.





Drainage and Sewerage

The drainage is on the broad irrigation system, the sewage being carried to two Sewerage Farms, one in the Borough, and one outside. A new sewer of 1400 yards long was built during 1924 and runs through Bimport and St. John's Hill joining the main sewer in St. James has proved very valuable to the neighbourhood. Further extension of the Sewerage of the Borough is under consideration.

Closet Accomodation.

Privy pits and pail closets are being abolished whenever possible and water closets substituted. The cleansing of earth closets etc is carried out by the occupier or owner.

Scavenging.

The scavenging is carried out by contract, the refuse being placed in moveable receptacles outside the houses once a week and collected in carts which convey it to the quarry. Owing to the quarry becoming filled the question of a fresh site being obtained for the disposal of the house refuse or the purchase of a Destructor will become imperative in the near future.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

(a) During the year there were 45 inspections made by the Sanitary Inspector.

(b) 56 Informal notices were served, of these 28 were connected afterwards to the main sewer and insanitary arrangements corrected, the remainder were for small repairs.

2 Statutory notices and summonses were issued in two cases.

(c) the result of such notices and summonses

The Magistrates made no order.

Smoke Abatement.

No factories in the Borough atmospheric conditions most satisfactory.

Premises and Occupations which can be controlled by Byelaws or Regulations

There are two lodging houses in the Borough which are frequently inspected and kept under observation, neither of these have underground sleeping rooms nor do I think there is any reason to suspect the existence of any underground sleeping rooms in the district.

Schools.

The Schools are supplied with town water, and the sanitary arrangements are satisfactory. They are constantly visited by the School Medical Officer and any infectious diseases although not notifiable under the Infectious Disease Act occurring amongst the Scholars is notified by the teachers to the Medical Officer of Health for the Borough.

Housing

1. General Housing Conditions.

(a) There is a shortage of houses which roughly would amount to 10%.

(2) 16 Houses were built in Coppice St. and Old Boundary Road during the past five years by the Corporation. There are several houses in the course of erection at the present time.

2. Overcrowding

1. There have been a few cases of overcrowding reported, two bad cases having come under my observation during the last two years.

2. Shortage of Houses.

3. Houses inspected by Medical Officer where overcrowding was reported after inspection the matter was reported to the Town Clerk who took steps and the cause of the trouble was rectified.

3. Fitness of Houses.

(a) Taken all round the general standard of housing in the area is satisfactory.

(b) The majority of defects found to exist in unfit houses are easily remedied.

(c) Defects due to lack of proper management and supervision by owners or to acts of waste or neglect by tenants is doubtful about 50%.

Housing Statistics for the Year 1925.

Number of New Houses erected during the year :-

(a) Total 3.

(b) With state assistance under the Housing Act 1.

(1) By local authority Nil.

(2) By other bodies or persons 1.

1. Unfit Dwelling Houses.

Inspection (1) Total number of dwellinghouses inspected for housing defects 5.

(2) Number of dwelling houses and recorded etc 1.

(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious etc. 1.

(4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to) 1.

2. Remedy of Defects without Service of Formal Notice.

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit etc. 3

3. Action under Statutory Powers.

A. Nil.

B. Nil

C. Nil.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.(a) Milk Supply.

Cowkeepers & Dairymen 7. Milk Sellers 4. Cowsheds 7.

No. Inspected 7.

The milk supplied to the area is of good quality. The dairies supplying the milk have been visited from time to time and the utensils used have been inspected the result has been satisfactory.

(b) Meat.

The two slaughter houses in the Borough have been inspected and some of the slaughters witnessed. Inspections 10.

(1) There is no marking under the Public Health (Meat) regulations 1924.

(11) All the butchers shops in the Borough have put in glass fronts to protect the meat on the counters from contamination by dust or otherwise. The transport of meat from the slaughter houses has been attended to, and the meat properly covered.

Butchers and Shop Assistants having food for sale have been instructed to prevent as much as possible the handling of food for sale by intending customers.

(111) There are no Public Slaughter Houses in the Area.

	<u>In 1920</u>	<u>In January 1925.</u>	<u>In December 1925.</u>
Registered	1	2	2
Licensed	-	-	-
	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>

(c) Other Foods

There are 6 Bakenhouses in the Borough, one being underground. Examinations were carried out on 22 occasions. The Bake-houses have been regularly whitewashed and the sanitary arrangements have been inspected.

(d) There have been no cases of food poisoning in the Area. Page VI gives particulars of samples of food examined from Area during the year.

Prevalence of and Control over Infectious Diseases.

Infectious Diseases generally.

The number of infectious diseases notified in the Borough

for the past five years i.e. 1920 - 1925 has been as follows :-
 1920. 3 Cases. 2 Scarlet Fever. 1 Encephalitis Lethargica.
 1921. 4 Cases. 4 Diphtheria.
 1922. 5 Cases. 2 Diphtheria. 1 Measles.
 1923. 2 Cases. 1 Scarlet Fever, 1 Cerebro Spinal Meningitis.
 1924. 2 Cases. 2 Erysipelas.
 1925. 6 Cases. 3 Scarlet Fever. 3 Pneumonia.

Pathological and Bacteriological specimens can be sent for examination to the Clinical Research Association.
 The Medical Officer of Health for the Borough of Shaftesbury is not the Public Vaccinator for the Area.

During the Autumn of 1925 there was an outbreak of measles at the Grammar School Shaftesbury, special precautions were taken to prevent the spread of the disease. There were a considerable number of cases of chickenpox and mumps reported from the various schools during the year, During the year 1925 there was not any serious outbreak of influenza, although there were a considerable number of cases of a mild nature, and as there were only 3 cases of pneumonia reported for the whole district during the year this clearly shows that the influenza was not of a serious nature.

Verminous persons when reported are isolated and their belongings fumigated.

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during the year 1925.

<u>Disease</u>	<u>Total cases notified.</u>	<u>Cases admitted to Hospital</u>	<u>Total Deaths.</u>
Small - pox	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	3	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-
Enteric Fever (including Parathyphoid)	-	-	-
Puerperal Fever.	-	-	-
Pneumonia	3	-	1

TUBERCULOSIS

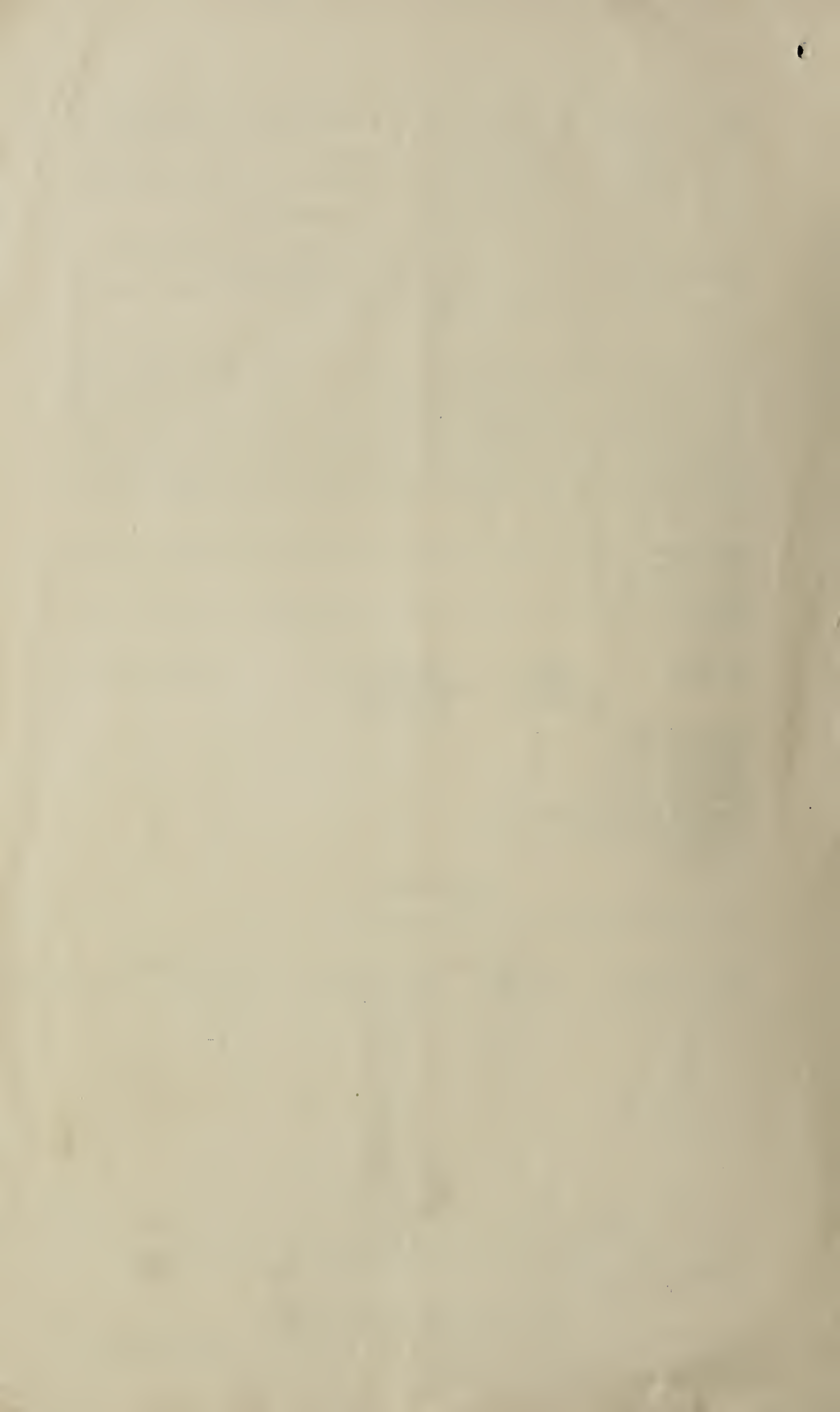
New Cases and Mortality during 1925.

<u>Age Periods.</u>	<u>New Cases</u>		<u>Deaths</u>	
	<u>Pulmonary</u>	<u>Non-Pulmonary</u>	<u>Pulmonary</u>	<u>Non-Pulmonary</u>
	<u>M. F.</u>	<u>M. F.</u>	<u>M. F.</u>	<u>M. F.</u>
0.	-	-	-	-
1.	-	-	-	-
5.	-	1	-	-
10.	-	-	-	-
15.	-	-	-	-
20 23	1	-	-	-
25.	-	-	-	-
35.	2	-	-	-
	1	-	-	-
45.	1	-	-	-
55.	1	-	-	-
Total	5	2	-	-

Public Health (prevention of Tuberculosis) regulations 1925.
 No cases reported.

Maternity and Child Welfare.

Patients can be admitted to Maternity beds at approved Hospitals under the Maternity and Child Welfare Scheme, under certain conditions. During the past five years I can find no trace of



any Ophthalmia Neonatorum having been notified.

Births.

There were 33 Births during the year being 13.9 per 1000. 13 Male 20 Female.

(12 Legitimate (19 Legitimate
(1 Illegitimate (1 Illegitimate.

Deaths There were 28 deaths during the year being 11.3 per 1000. 10 Male 18 Female.

Causes of Death

Tuberculosis Respiratory System	1
Other Tuberculosis Diseases	1
Cancer Malignant Disease	5
Diabetes	2
Heart Disease	5
Arterio - Sclerosis	2.
Pneumonia (all forms)	2
Suicide	1
Other defined diseases	2
Total	<u>28</u>

ADMINISTRATION OF SALE OF FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS.

Shaftesbury Urban District

Year ended 31st December 1925.

The following is a statement of the Samples taken in the District during the past year :-

<u>SAMPLE</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>If adulterated.</u>
Baking Powder	1	-
Bread	2	-
Coffee	1	-
Curry Powder	1	-
Friars Balsam	1	-
Margarine	1	-
Milk	1	-
Oatmeal	1	-
Sponge Cake	1	-
Vinegar	1	-

I am Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

NORMAN LE TOWNSEND.

Medical Officer Shaftesbury Borough.

